

submitted by e-mail or you can submit a computer disk. When submitting comments electronically do not submit any information that you consider to be CBI. Avoid the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Electronic submissions will be accepted in WordPerfect 6.1/8.0/7/8/9 or ASCII file format. All comments in electronic form must be identified by docket control number OPP-42080.

D. How Should I Handle CBI that I Want to Submit to the Agency?

Do not submit any information electronically that you consider to be CBI. You may claim information that you submit to EPA in response to this document as CBI by marking any part or all of that information as CBI. Information so marked will not be disclosed except in accordance with procedures set forth in 40 CFR part 2. In addition to one complete version of the comment that includes any information claimed as CBI, a copy of the comment that does not contain the information claimed as CBI must be submitted for inclusion in the public version of the official record. Information not marked confidential will be included in the public version of the official record without prior notice. If you have any questions about CBI or the procedures for claiming CBI, please consult the person identified under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

E. What Should I Consider as I Prepare My Comments for EPA?

You may find the following suggestions helpful for preparing your comments:

1. Explain your views as clearly as possible.
2. Describe any assumptions that you used.
3. Provide copies of any technical information and/or data you used that support your views.
4. If you estimate potential burden or costs, explain how you arrived at the estimate that you provide.
5. Provide specific examples to illustrate your concerns.
6. Make sure to submit your comments by the deadline in this notice.
7. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, be sure to identify the docket control number assigned to this action in the subject line on the first page of your response. You may also provide the name, date, and **Federal Register** citation.

II. What Action is the Agency Taking?

EPA has reviewed the revised Nebraska Certification Plan and finds it in compliance with FIFRA and 40 CFR part 171 and is announcing its intention to approve the amended plan and seeks public comment.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Education, Pests and pesticides.

Dated: September 18, 2001.

Michael J. Sanderson,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region VII.

[FR Doc. 01-24604 Filed 10-2-01; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7072-9]

RIN 2060-AG85

Waste Characterization Program Documents Applicable to Transuranic Radioactive Waste From the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory Proposed for Disposal at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of availability; opening of public comment period.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA, or "we") is announcing the availability of, and soliciting public comments for 30 days on, Department of Energy (DOE) documents on waste characterization programs applicable to certain transuranic (TRU) radioactive waste at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) proposed for disposal at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). The documents are procedures for elements of the system of controls that INEEL proposes to use to characterize organic sludges that constitute transuranic (TRU) radioactive waste. The documents are available for review in the public dockets listed in **ADDRESSES**. We will use these and other documents to evaluate the waste characterization system at INEEL as it applies to organic sludge TRU waste, during an inspection conducted in accordance with EPA's WIPP Compliance Criteria in October 2001. The purpose of the inspection is to verify that INEEL can characterize transuranic organic sludge waste adequately, consistent with the WIPP Compliance Criteria and Condition 3 of EPA's final certification decision for the

WIPP. This notice of the inspection and comment period accords with 40 CFR 194.8.

DATES: The EPA is requesting public comment on these documents. Comments must be received by EPA's official Air Docket on or before November 2, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be submitted to: Docket No. A-98-49, Air Docket, Room M-1500 (LE-131), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, SW., Washington, DC, 20460. DOE documents related to NDA systems and AK pertaining to organic sludge waste are available for review in the official EPA Air Docket in Washington, D.C., Docket No. A-98-49, Category II-A-2, and at the following three EPA WIPP information docket locations in New Mexico: in Carlsbad at the Municipal Library, Hours: Monday-Thursday, 10am-9pm, Friday-Saturday, 10am-6pm, and Sunday, 1pm-5pm; in Albuquerque at the Government Publications Department, General Library, University of New Mexico, Hours: vary by semester; and in Santa Fe at the New Mexico State Library, Hours: Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm.

Copies of items in the docket may be requested by writing to Docket A-98-49 at the address provided above, or by calling (202) 260-7548. As provided in EPA's regulation at 40 CFR Part 2, and in accordance with normal EPA docket procedures, a reasonable fee may be charged for photocopying. Air Docket A-98-49 in Washington, DC, accepts comments sent electronically or by fax (fax no.: 202-260-4400; E-mail: a-and-r-docket@epa.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ed Feltcorn, Office of Radiation and Indoor Air, (202) 564-9422, or call EPA's 24-hour, toll-free WIPP Information Line, 1-800-331-WIPP, or visit our website at <http://www.epa.gov/radiation/wipp/announce.html>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The DOE is developing the WIPP near Carlsbad in southeastern New Mexico as a deep geologic repository for disposal of TRU radioactive waste. As defined by the WIPP Land Withdrawal Act (LWA) of 1992 (Pub. L. No. 102-579), as amended (Pub. L. No. 104-201), TRU waste consists of materials containing elements having atomic numbers greater than 92 (with half-lives greater than twenty years), in concentrations greater than 100 nanocuries of alpha-emitting TRU isotopes per gram of waste. Most TRU waste consists of items contaminated during the production of nuclear weapons, such as rags, equipment, tools, and organic and inorganic sludges.

On May 13, 1998, EPA announced its final compliance certification decision to the Secretary of Energy (published May 18, 1998, 63 FR 27354). This decision states that the WIPP will comply with the EPA's radioactive waste disposal regulations at 40 CFR part 191, subparts B and C.

The final WIPP certification decision includes a condition that prohibits shipment of TRU waste for disposal at WIPP from any site other than LANL until EPA has approved the procedures developed to comply with the waste characterization requirements of § 194.24(c)(4) (Condition 3 of Appendix A to 40 CFR part 194). The EPA's approval process for waste generator sites is described in § 194.8. As part of EPA's decision making process, DOE is required to submit to EPA relevant documentation of waste characterization programs at each DOE waste generator site seeking approval for shipment of TRU radioactive waste to the WIPP. In accordance with § 194.8, EPA will place such documentation in the official Air Docket in Washington, DC, and in informational dockets in the State of New Mexico, for public review and comment.

We initially approved certain waste characterization processes at INEEL following an inspection on July 28–30, 1998. INEEL has requested approval to characterize organic sludge waste using nondestructive assay systems and other processes previously approved for characterization of other waste streams. Several relevant INEEL documents related to nondestructive assay systems and acceptable knowledge have been placed in Air Docket A-98-49. They are as follows: (1) TPR-1573, Rev. 34, 8/10/01, Passive-Active Neutron (PAN) Assay System; (2) TPR-1588, Rev. 26, 1/4/01, SWEPP Gamma-Ray Spectrometer System; (3) TPR-1654, Rev. 2, 8/6/01, SWEPP Waste Assay Gamma Spectrometer (WAGS) System; (4) TPR-1719, Rev. 12, 7/17/01, Calibration of SWEPP Radioassay Systems; (5) MCP-2988, Rev. 14, 8/28/01, Confirmation, Resolution, and Reevaluation of Acceptable Knowledge Information; and (6) MCP-2989, Rev. 7, 11/29/00, Collection, Review, and Management of Acceptable Knowledge Documentation. These procedures are for processes that apply to organic sludges and other waste streams.

In accordance with § 194.8 of the WIPP compliance criteria, we are providing the public 30 days to comment on the documents. In the event that the inspection occurs during the comment period, we will respond to relevant comments received prior to, during, and after the inspection.

If EPA determines that the provisions in the documents are adequately implemented, we will notify DOE by letter and place the letter in the official Air Docket in Washington, DC, and also in the informational dockets located in New Mexico. A positive approval letter will allow DOE to ship TRU waste from INEEL to WIPP for disposal. We will not make a determination of compliance prior to the inspection or before the 30-day comment period has closed.

Information on EPA's radioactive waste disposal standards (40 CFR part 191), the compliance criteria (40 CFR part 194), and EPA's certification decision is filed in the official EPA Air Docket, Dockets No. R-89-01, A-92-56, and A-93-02, respectively, and is available for review in Washington, DC, and at the three EPA WIPP informational docket locations in New Mexico. The dockets in New Mexico contain only major items from the official Air Docket in Washington, DC, plus those documents added to the official Air Docket after the October 1992 enactment of the WIPP LWA.

Dated: September 26, 2001.

Robert Brenner,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation.

[FR Doc. 01-24716 Filed 10-2-01; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7073-1]

Change in Dates of EPA Inspection of Transuranic Waste Characterization Systems and Processes at the Savannah River Site Related to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of availability and extending of comment period.

SUMMARY: Today, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA, or "we"), is announcing a change in the dates of an inspection previously planned for the week of September 24, 2001 at the Savannah River Site (SRS). The August 29 **Federal Register** notice announced the purpose of the EPA inspection and availability of Department of Energy (DOE) documents in the EPA Docket, and solicited public comments on the documents available in the docket for a period of 30 days (66 FR 45679). Now, the inspection will be held during the week of October 15, 2001. The following DOE documents entitled: (1) "CCP-PO-001—Revision 2, 7/23/01—CCP

Transuranic Waste Quality Assurance Characterization Project Plan" (2) "CCP-PO-002—Revision 2, 7/23/01—CCP Transuranic Waste Certification Plan" (3)—Savannah River Site Statement of Work (SOW) 1E8863—Revision 2, 9/17/01—Clarification of SRS TRU Waste" and (4) CBFOA-02-09—"Carlsbad Field Office Audit Plan." These documents are available for review in the public dockets listed in **ADDRESSES**. In addition to changing the inspection dates, we are extending the public comment period for 30 additional days. The extension of the public comment period provides additional opportunity to interested individuals/entities if they have not already done so. We will consider public comments received on or before September 28 (the last day for the first 30-day comment period), and those received since then but on or before the due date mentioned in **DATES**. In accordance with EPA's WIPP Compliance Criteria at 40 CFR 194.8, we will conduct an inspection at SRS to verify that using the systems and processes developed as part of the DOE Carlsbad Office's central characterizations project (CCP), DOE can characterize TRU waste at SRS properly, consistent with the Compliance Criteria. This notice of the inspection and comment period accords with 40 CFR 194.8.

DATES: Comments must be received by EPA's official Air Docket on or before November 2, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be submitted to: Docket No. A-98-49, Air Docket, Room M-1500 (LE-131), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC, 20460.

DOE documents related to the CCP are available for review in the official EPA Air Docket in Washington, D.C., Docket No. A-98-49, Category II-A2, and at the following three EPA WIPP informational docket locations in New Mexico: in Carlsbad at the Municipal Library, Hours: Monday–Thursday, 10 am–9 pm, Friday–Saturday, 10 am–6 pm, and Sunday, 1 pm–5 pm; in Albuquerque at the Government Publications Department, General Library, University of New Mexico, Hours: vary by semester; and in Santa Fe at the New Mexico State Library, Hours: Monday–Friday, 9 am–5 pm. The documents also are available electronically at EPA's WIPP Homepage and may be accessed at: <http://www.epa.gov/radiation/wipp>.

Copies of items in the docket may be requested by writing to Docket A-98-49 at the address provided above, or by calling (202) 260-7548. As provided in